

Jim Gaffney May Purchase Club From Frazee Within 2 Weeks

GAFFNEY MAY BUY RED SOX

"I'm Not Dead," Is Word From Hank

WITH THE ARMY OF OCCUPATION IN GERMANY, Dec. 22 (by courier to Nancy).—"I wish to deny emphatically the report that I am dead." The raw-boned doughboy who made this uncorporate utterance was Sgt. Hank Gowdy, the first ball player to enlist and who is still under contract as catcher with the Boston Braves. The reported dead man was busily engaged stowing away a two-inch beefsteak in a hotel in Coblenz when he gave the lie to early reports that he had fallen in the fighting in the Argonne forest.

NEW YORK, Dec. 23.—If the Boston Red Sox are destined to change hands, it is expected that the deal will be consummated before the major leagues get together for their joint meeting here in January.

Well-informed baseball men expressed this belief here today in discussing a rumor which linked up James Gaffney, former owner of the Boston Braves, with the probable sale of the Boston Americans.

President Ben Johnson, of the junior league, has been given what practically amounts to an option on the Red Sox by Owner Frazee, yet the Red Sox president is not bound to any promises, and recent conferences he is reported to have had with Gaffney lead to the conclusion that "there is a hen on."

The recent deal between the Red Sox and Yankees, in which Frazee let three star players get away from the Boston club, forecasts his early withdrawal from the Red Sox. The release of Shore and Leonard to New York was not considered a blow by Boston critics, but Duffy Lewis' sale was resented.

Though Frazee is reported to have received \$15,000 in cash in the deal, the wisecracker here point out that he would not have disposed of a trio of stars at one time had he intended remaining in the game.

PROMISES NEW MEN FOR REDLAND TEAM

CINCINNATI, Dec. 23.—"I'll say again," remarks August Herrmann, "that there will be several new faces on the Cincinnati club—but I can not give out the details at the present time."

Who departs from the club? What members of the old guard must go away from Cincinnati? And who is coming in? The Reds, as made up last August, even though short in numbers and without any left-handed pitchers, came in third. If re-enforced by the men who will come back from war—Rath, Bressler, Ruethe, Allen, Regan and Kopf—the club will look strong enough to make a real try for the flag.

But several other clubs will receive such tremendous help from the returned troops that the Reds may think a boost—and Mr. Herrmann thinks three or four of the present members have got in more or less of a rut—need a change and should give way to newcomers.

But which are the men who are booked to go, and who are supposed to replace them? That is the question. First baseman to take the place of Hal Chase. Probably Rath, coming in at shortstop, counts as a "new face," and there will, it is said, be a new outfielder—a right-handed batsman.

But it's all guesswork and uncertainty—and it gives the fans something to puzzle over for awhile.

WILLIAMS COLLEGE LOOKS FOR GOOD GRIDIRON COACH

Williams College is beginning to look around for a good football coach. It is reported that Joe Brooks, now captain of a machine gun company in France, has decided to give up athletics for a business career. In losing Brooks the Williams college school sustains a severe blow. Joe Brooks was one of the greatest all-around gridiron instructors of the present day. The success of the 1917 Purple and Black team was due more to the grade of coach received from Joe Brooks the previous season than to any other factor.

RITCHIE WILL TEACH.

SAN FRANCISCO, Dec. 23.—Gerhard Steffen, known to the boxing world as Willie Ritchie, former world's lightweight champion until defeated by Freddie Welsh, has been appointed boxing instructor for the western department of the army, with headquarters in this city.

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SAMMY KAI KEE, ONLY CHINESE TO PLAY VARSITY FOOTBALL

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"CHILDLIKE AND BLAND."

Sammy Kai Kee, halfback on the University of California football team, is the only Chinese that ever played on a big American college team. He has shown great ability this fall, and is one of the strongest varsity players on the coast.

ALL LEFT-HANDERS FOR GIANTS' CORPS

"If I can get a certain Pittsburgh pitcher," says John J. McGraw, "I'm going to make my 1919 campaign one of left-handers. I'm going to specialize on southpaws, using four of them, all top-nitchers, day in, day out, with right-handers to fill in with now and then. It strikes me that certain clubs—such as the Reds and Cardinals—can't make much headway against left-handers, and I intend to feed them left-hand pitching till they wobble at the knees."

The Pittsburgh southpaw sought by McGraw undoubtedly is Wilbur Cooper, one of the greatest left-handers in the game. McGraw would give oodles of cash and two right-handers for him. He probably can't get him, but if he does secure Cooper, and Schupp's arm comes back to form, look at the front John can put up with Cooper, Schupp, Sale and Benton! Those four left-handers, operating day after day, would have several clubs dizzy, and would be far the strongest force of sinister slingers ever collected by any manager.

McGraw seems full of pep and optimism. Next to his tremendous pitching staff, he is banking on his outfield, re-enforced by the return of Dave Robertson.

JOE BURMAN WILL CLASH WITH WIMLER THURSDAY

BALTIMORE, Dec. 23.—Joe Burman, prominent bantamweight contender, will clash with Eddie Wimler Thursday night in the first show staged at Albaugh's Theater by the American A. A. Seals are already on sale and the outlook is for a large crowd. Burman has been seen in action here before, and has made many friends by his snappy work.

Burman is handled by Tommy Walsh, manager of Pal Moore, whose victory over Jimmy Wilde in the interallied series tournament has given him great prominence. Burman is also rapidly going to the top of his class, and the time may come when these two lads may have to battle each other for the title.

LISTS FEW GAMES.

Georgetown has listed few basketball games after the holidays. The unsettled conditions in the colleges usually on the Hilltop schedule stopped negotiations. Georgetown will probably play ten or twelve games when college is started up again.

RUBE BENTON IS OUT.

COLUMBIA, S. C., Dec. 23.—Rube Benton, the New York Giants' star twirler, has been mustered out of the army at Camp Sevier. He is now ready to play ball whenever McGraw gives the word.

TECH ACCEDES IN DROPPING GUYON

PITTSBURGH, Dec. 23.—Graduate Manager Karl E. Davis, of the University of Pittsburgh football team, today announced that Georgia Tech had acceded to Pitt's demand that Joe Guyon be dropped from the Southern team, as far as Pittsburgh is concerned, and that an arrangement had been made whereby the Golden Tornadoes will appear at Forbes Field next year.

Pitt will play five games at Forbes Field, one at Beaver Falls, only thirty miles away, and three away from home, at Philadelphia, South Bethlehem, and Syracuse.

Following is the official schedule for 1919:
October 4, Geneva College, at Beaver Falls; October 11, West Virginia University, at Forbes Field; October 18, University of Pennsylvania, at Philadelphia; October 25, Georgia Tech, at Forbes Field; November 1, Lehigh College, at South Bethlehem; November 8, Washington and Jefferson College, at Forbes Field; November 15, Carnegie Tech, at Forbes Field; November 22, Syracuse University, at Syracuse; November 27 (Thanksgiving Day), Penn State, at Forbes Field.

HAP HOGAN TIES ALTROCK WHEN IT COMES TO JOKES

George Hildebrand, American League umpire, insists that, as a laugh-producer, he can give Nick Altrock, baseball's chief clown, no more than a tie with Hap Hogan, of the Pacific Coast League.

Hildebrand delights to tell of Hogan's run in with an umpire who had only three fingers on his right hand. Angered at a protest from Hogan this umpire with the crippled hand told Hogan: "It will cost you just that much," raising his right hand to designate the fine.

Five dollars is the minimum fine in any league and that was the intent of the umpire, but Hogan said in a chuck for \$2—one for each umpire's finger. This incident started a big fuss in the league, but Hogan won his argument.

RUTGERS ELEVEN TO PLAY STRONG RIVALS NEXT YEAR

George Foster Sanford's Rutgers College eleven will have a very formidable schedule next season. West Virginia, Washington and Jefferson, Syracuse, Lehigh, Lafayette, and Princeton are expected to top off the list of opponents that "Sandy" will send his charges against. It is just possible that a Rutgers-Columbia game will be arranged for the Polo Grounds. Such a meeting would do much to increase the treasures of each school.

FORREST CADY IS STUCK ON O'NEILL

CLEVELAND, Dec. 23.—Forrest Cady, the big catcher who used to help the Red Sox win world pennants, is among us.

He stopped off on his way from Philly to Kansas City to visit friends, and took occasion to pay Steve O'Neill the highest tribute one catcher could hand another.

"Steve's the greatest catcher in the game, not only today, but in all the years that I've been playing baseball," said Cady. "It makes me sick to have anybody say Ray Schalk is even his equal, for I know so well that it isn't so."

"Steve has it on Johnny Kling and Jimmy Archer, the great Cub pair, in their palmiest days. I never knew a catcher who could block the plate like him."

"And he's in there day in and day out catching the same great game. He never seems to have an off day. 'Betcherlife I'd like to be on the same staff with him."

"Keep your eye on the Indians this coming season. They'd have won the pennant last year if the season hadn't been cut short."

"And they'll be better this year with Harris back on first. They don't seem weak at any point, and they're mostly a young team that keeps on getting better each year."

Cady's free agent, having been released by Connie Mack, to whom he was traded, is now with the Phillies now that they're under the management of Jack Coombs. "Coombs wanted me to go with the Dodgers last season," says he.

GEORGE MORIARTY ENDED FIELDER JONES AT ONCE

Georgia Moriarty, umpire, and Fielder Jones, manager, didn't agree last summer. In many games George found it a disagreeable task to consign Fielder to the club house.

One day last season in a game at St. Louis, a close play at the plate went against the home team and cost the Browns the game.

Jones has always been a hard loser. He remembers every close play that ever went against his club. But he can't recall a single close play that ever was rendered in his favor.

The next day when Moriarty came out to start the game, Jones made some sarcastic comment about the umpiring of the day previous.

"Possibly the umpiring was rotten, but I'm sure it was at least on a par with your club's playing and a heap better than your managings," said Moriarty.

"What do you mean?" queried Jones in anger.

"Nothing more than that you ceased to be a good manager, when Ed Walsh ceased to be a great pitcher."

DULUTH PLANS ROWING MEET FOR SCHOOLBOYS

DULUTH, Dec. 23.—Letters of invitation to an intercollegiate rowing regatta are being sent out to every city in the United States maintaining a boat club by the Duluth Boat Club. The regatta to be held early next summer.

New York, Chicago, Philadelphia, Boston, Lynn and Peoria are said to have indicated they will send "riders" crews. Shome the national regatta be held in 1919, Duluth Boat Club officials announce they will make a bid for it. An international swimming tournament also will be held here.

TOM MCCARTHY WILL LEAD NEWARK INDIANS IN '19

Tom McCarthy, who was manager of the Newark club last season, will continue in that position next year.

Penny Ante

LADIES' NIGHT.

By Jean Knott



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CENTRAL HAS BIG YEAR IN SPORTS

Central High School athletes made a clean-up in basketball and baseball during 1918, while Tech's track athletes landed the cinder title. The football championship was abolished, although Western and Central fought out an informal game in the Central stadium.

The Mt. Pleasant lads not only scored clean wins in two sports but took two others, landing the tennis and swimming team championships. Tech, Western, Business and Eastern competed in all branches. Central failed to compete in the track program and Tech won rather handily.

Three Men Are New. The past year was marked by the entrance of three new men in coaching circles. L. H. Battersby, at Eastern; William M. Apple, at Tech, and Dr. W. M. Dorman, at Business, have become settled in their positions as athletic directors and have begun to furnish all sorts of opposition to Central and Western.

Beginning the year with a clean-up in basketball, Central pressed in to service a first rate eleven. The team lost but three games during the season—Business, Baltimore City and Staunton Military Academy scoring victories.

Won Titles Handily. Central handily won the basketball title and then went out of doors to a baseball win. The basketball and baseball teams were coached by C. A. Metzler, who succeeded in annexing his sixth straight title for Central.

J. Brunner, coach of the Central swimmers, put his lads in the lead over Tech, although the Manual Trainers furnished, with Western, considerable opposition in the final meet. Edward Dowd, who succeeded Lou Doyle as Central's tennis coach, put his lads through in fine style, although Western's racquetmen made Central travel all the way through for the win.

Tech scored rather a hollow victory in track. In the intercollegiate meet Central withdrew.

The meet was held in the Central stadium and Tech almost doubled Western's score. Business and Eastern were nowhere.

Football a Failure. Football for the high schools in 1918 was a failure. The Spanish flu ban, placed on all gatherings, cut down all practice and stopped games just as the teams got into a fine stride.

Central was resumed on November 4 and Central started up the grid game. A battle was arranged with Western for November 26, and when played resulted in a 13-to-6 victory for Central. There was little to choose between the teams and the game, despite the lack of practice, was the best played in recent years.

DR. MERCER MAKING GOOD WITH SWATHMORE TEAMS

Dr. Roy Mercer, former Pennsylvania all-around athlete, is making quite a reputation as a coach at Swathmore College. During the past fall the former Red and Blue star developed one of the best gridiron elevens in the East. So successful was he in his coaching that the Swathmore officials signed him up as baseball instructor. He will start working with his players immediately after the Christmas holidays.

COL. HACKETT, FOOTBALL OFFICIAL, IS WOUNDED

Among the officers recently reported by Hackett, field artillery, Hackett was a football star at West Point and is remembered as referee in many of the big football contests. Hackett went to France as commander of the old Third Illinois Artillery.

TEN YEARS AGO IN SPORTS

Alfred De Oro won the three cushion championship from Fred Heuston by 150 to 107 at St. Louis.

George Sutton, holder of the 18-1 title insisted upon terms in defending his title against George Slosson. Sutton wanted to name the meeting place.

The University of Michigan, for the first time in history, announced a crew for spring practice. The Michigan men expected to enter the Foughkeepsie regatta.

Pacific coast sports declared Billy Parker, the Illinois Thunderbolt, quit cold in the fight with Stanley Ketchel, the half pound round Ketchel was puffing hard and was all in, but 'Apke slowed up so unmistakably as to convince the fans he was laying down.

GOSNELL HAS GOOD MARK AT SHOOTING

"Goody" Gosnell, Tech's basketball captain, has the best mark from the fifteen-foot line. Gosnell shot three out of five in one game and ten out of fourteen in another. None of the other lads appear to be able to get better than half their chances. Nordinger, of Western, is only a fair shot while Foster, of Central, has failed to make good in many chances.

Guy Winkler, Tech's big basketball guard, is also captain of the swimming team and ranks as one of the best tank experts in scholastic circles.

Donald Wight, Western's veteran guard, is also captain of the track team. He was recently elected class president and will probably give up one of the honors as the school allows no student to hold two major offices.

Reed, of Eastern, played in but one game last year for the Capital Hill lads. He was elected captain of the floor team and has come forward with several fine performances this season.

Carl Schaffer started in at Central several years ago, but switched to Business. There are two athletic captains in the Schaffer family. Carl is leading the Stenographers in basketball, and Ernest is captain of Central's baseball team.

Cothran Graves, captain of Western's baseball team, expects to get his candidates out for track work after the holidays. Graves is counting over the players who are back from last season.

If there are any indoor meets this season Central and Tech will probably send in athletes. Both schools are intent on coming through with good teams this spring.

Bob Montgomery, of Central, is expected to come through in first-class style for the track team. He performed creditably in the Lehigh meet last spring.

L. Castello is a promising youngster with the Gonzaga midgets. His brother is playing a stellar game for the first team and has averaged six baskets per game.

"Y" BOYS WORKING.

Coach Fuller's Y. M. C. A. basketball team are working hard in preparation for their games during the holidays.

GAME POSTPONED.

The Marines-Naval Gun Factory football game scheduled for yesterday was postponed. The teams will probably meet on New Year Day.

The "Velvet Kind." The buying public's mind is set and knows the "Velvet Kind."—Adv.

CARDS BOSS TO GET THE CASH

Peace Suggestions For 1919 Sports

Allied Olympiad for Versailles. International yacht races. International lawn tennis matches. Army-Navy football game. Boxing revival under regulations. Intercollegiate field and track meet. Annual Foughkeepsie regatta. National rowing regatta. National Bowling Congress.

ST. LOUIS, Dec. 23.—Branch Rickey will man the Cardinals' next season. Jack Hendricks, who claims to be held by a contract running through 1919, will be bought off rather than allow a court to make a ruling. The major leagues cannot allow any such decision to be made, as there are dozens of ball players waiting for a chance to play another year under their old salary terms.

Hendricks was signed up for two years. Under ordinary conditions his job would be good with the Cards through next season, but when the major leagues stopped operations last September all players and managers under contract were released. The ten-day release notice was used in these cases.

The 1918 Cardinal leader has just returned from France, where he saw a little service as a K. of C. secretary. He conferred Saturday with President Heydler in New York, but no statement emanated from either side. However, Hendricks has let it be known that he will make a fight to be retained.

"They can't hand me the tin can like that," he told friends in New York. "If they want Rickey or any other manager, they'll have to pay me my full salary for 1919, just the same."

A number of ball players are in the same position as Hendricks. They were released last September, though their contracts ran through 1919. The clubs are expected to sign them on new contracts before next spring, generous offers in salary being practically assured. Therefore, the magnates do not want any court decisions in Hendricks' case. Hendricks will get his money.

FOUL'S HUNCH GOOD AS FIGURES PROVE

Lee Fohl has the idea that most of the errors made by pitchers came as a result of bad throws to catch runners off the bases. To find out whether or not Fohl was right in his theory, a statistician delved into the 1918 blunder book as it applied to the pitchers of the first major league club. Fohl was with Pittsburgh—with the following result:

Carl Hamilton & Co. made ten errors in 1918, six of these being misplayed throws to catch runners off the bases and four trying to field bunts. Frank Miller, who pitched part of a game for the White Sox in 1918, had three misplayed throws coming because of his desire to catch an slumbering. One of Frank's bases was accurate enough, but before he made it he neglected to find out whether or not Muller was on first base. Mully wobbled.

Both of Roy Saunders' 1918 blunders were sequels to attempts to hold runners up, and Carl Hamilton and Harold Carless each got one misplay in this manner. Cyril Sapsieka, who had two errors, made them both on bunts, one of the fumbles costing him a thirteen-inning 10-0 game with the Phillies. Ralph Comstock, one of the Tigers, also fumbled once, but the error cost nothing.

If the dope for the other clubs is the same as that for the Pirates, 95 percent of the pitchers' errors are attributable to tries to catch men slumbering.

WELLS COMING OVER.

NEW YORK, Dec. 23.—Bombardier Wells, now a sergeant in the British army, is coming to the United States to pay his respects to American heavyweights within a few weeks. It was announced here today. The Bombardier will be under the direction of Charley Rose and will seek matches with Jack Dempsey and others.

The "Velvet Kind." "Every time you eat a plate you will admit it's simply great."—Adv.

All Military Service Chevrons

Men—

Don't go uptown and pay \$5.00 or \$10.00 more for this same kind of suit or overcoat. Look these over and see the truth of this statement. Extreme or conservative models—any cloth you like—suit or overcoat,

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